

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-46 (Cancelled)

47. (New) An apparatus for performing instant messaging under a first protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a first device implementing the first protocol;

a second device implementing a second protocol, the second protocol being different than the first protocol and incompatible with the first protocol, the second device being a telephonic switch;

a protocol converter to convert between the first protocol and the second protocol;

a register to register the first device and the second device;

a map to map a first client to the first device and a second client to the second device;

the telephonic switch being connected to the second client, the second client being a digital display telephone set that receives and sends instant messaging messages to and from the first client without needing to be off-hook, the digital display telephone set having a plurality of keys and a display; and

the second device receiving information for the keys pressed at the digital display telephone set and having full control of the display on that digital display telephone set.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the first protocol is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first client of the first device is a personal computer or a personal digital assistant (PDA) and the first device is an SIP proxy server.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the digital display telephone set has an instant messaging key that initiates instant messaging in the digital display via actuation of the instant messaging key.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the digital display telephone set is a digital telephone or a telephone client.

52. (New) A method for performing instant messaging comprising:

- identifying a first device implementing a first protocol;
- identifying a second device implementing a second protocol, the second protocol being a computer supported telephony application protocol that is different than the first protocol and incompatible with the first protocol and the second device begin a telephonic switch;
- registering the first device and the second device;
- mapping a first client to the first device and a second client to the second device, the second client being a digital display telephone set that has a display and a plurality of keys;

converting messages exchanged between the first device and the second device such that the first device receives messages from the second device that are converted from the second protocol into the first protocol and the second device receives messages from the first device that are converted from the first protocol to the second protocol;

communicating instant messaging messages to and from the first client and the second client without the digital display telephone set being off hook; and

the second device receiving information for the keys pressed at the digital display telephone set and having full control of the display of the digital display telephone set when the digital display telephone set communicates the instant messaging messages.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the first protocol is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the first client of the first device is a personal computer or a personal digital assistant.

55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the first device is an SIP proxy.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 further comprising establishing an instant messaging connection via pressing an instant messaging key of the plurality of keys of the digital display telephone set.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising sending a notification to the digital display telephone set when a new instant message arrives that was sent from the first client.

58. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of sending a notification from the first client to the second client when a request to add the second client to a contact list of the first client is received.

59. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of the second client signing in to receive instant messaging services.

60. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of the second client changing a status from off-line to on-line for instant messaging.

61. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of the second client querying a status of a contact list member.

62. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of determining a presence status of the second client based on call activity of the second client.

63. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of storing common replies to other instant messaging clients.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein at least one of the stored common replies includes at least one custom data field.

65. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the communicating of instant messages is comprised of sending stored common messages to other instant messaging clients.

66. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the digital display telephone set is a digital telephone or a telephone client.